

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 2, 2004 has been carefully considered together with the prior art cited therein. It is noted with appreciation that the subject matter of claims 7-22 is allowable whereby, for the latter purpose, claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form for allowance together with claims 8-22 which are dependent therefrom.

Further by the foregoing amendment, claim 1 is amended to more clearly distinguish applicant's invention from the prior art. For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 as herein amended patentably distinguishes from the art and is allowable together with claims 2-6 which are dependent therefrom, and that rejected claims 23-28 as originally filed patentably distinguish from the art and are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 23-28 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 23-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by patent 4,901,395 to Semrau. Claim 1 has been amended to define the structure of applicant's grommet at the other of the ends thereof as having an inner surface radially spaced from the conductor and an outer surface diametrically larger than the opening through the substrate and, further, to define the inner and outer surfaces as being arcuate in the direction toward the one end of the grommet and converging in the latter direction. This structure clearly distinguishes applicants grommet from the prior art of record including the patent to Semrau, whereby claim 1 is allowable together with claims 2-6 which are dependent therefrom.

With regard to method claims 23-28, claim 23 clearly requires the sealing of a conductor having a diametrically larger connector on an end thereof by mounting applicants' grommet on the conductor with the first end of the grommet facing the connector and then inserting the connector and conductor through the opening from one side of the substrate and sealing the second end of the

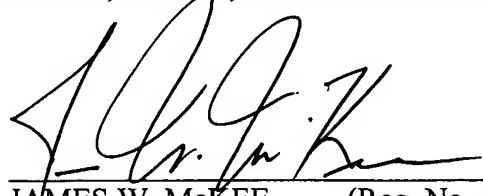
grommet to the substrate. None of the prior art of record including the patent to Semrau discloses or suggests applicants' method for sealing a conductor to a substrate wherein the conductor has a diametrically larger connector and wherein the connector and a grommet positioned on the conductor in a particular orientation relative to the connector are mounted on the substrate by introducing the connector and then the grommet through the opening in the substrate. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that claim 23 patentably distinguishes from the prior art and is allowable together with claims 24-28 which are dependent therefrom.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, applicant is in the process of having formal drawings prepared and, in connection therewith, Figure 1 will be amended to relocate numeral 14 so as to avoid confusion with respect to its original location. A copy of Figure 1 showing the proposed correction thereof in red ink is submitted herewith for consideration by the examiner. The proposed correction is believed to address the examiner's objection, and if the objection is not fully addressed by the proposed correction, applicant would appreciate clarification of the examiner's objection.

An earnest effort has been made to place the application in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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